



MD iMap Executive Committee Meeting

March 8, 2013

9:30a.m. – 2:30p.m.

MD Department of Transportation (Hanover, MD)

Opening & Introductions – *Elliot Schlanger/Barney Krucoff*

Topics To Be Covered

- This meeting was originally scheduled for January, but it had to move because of conflict with Governor's State of the State Address
- Changed the format of this meeting based on feedback after the previous meeting
 - Specifically that the format needs to allow for more chances to network and talk
- Big block of time set aside to run through prepared questions and spurn conversation
- Some presentations later in the day which we hope spark further discussion
 - Show new map application templates – iPad friendly, working examples
 - Next week (3/19/13), at TUGIS Conference, will be official unveiling
 - Show statistics on ELA and how State agencies have been using this resource
 - Biggest expense item and dictates how to renegotiate with Esri in the future
 - Show how the stats are collected and where they can be found
 - Also talk about potential strategy for renegotiating with Esri
 - Other presentations: addressing, data consolidation, more technical information
- Highlights of Today's Meeting:
 - Morning's open discussion
 - Budget
 - Homeland security topics
- Format of the meeting today is designed to talk at an Executive level of why we are here and what we get out of participating

Executive Discussion – *Elliot Schlanger*

Question #1: Do you know what the MD iMap program has to offer your agency/organization?

Chuck Bristow (MDOT)

- Greatest benefit is collaboration, even inside of MDOT groups which were disjointed
- Individual groups embraced the utilization of GIS, but were not sharing data or applications
- Challenge, within MDOT, was that GIS didn't fall under IT, but there was still a desire to collaborate
- Biggest accomplishment is to see what other groups are doing and being able to share this information with each other and with the public

Elliot Schlanger (DoIT)

- There are approximately 65 agencies in the State with hundreds of local jurisdictions and private enterprises.
- We all have a mission to serve our customers in a particular way, but GIS has a commonality, with a common dictionary understood by all.
- Working independently isn't the most efficient way to work anymore.

- This group is a catalyst for people coming together across industries, to create synergy and efficiency and light the spark of the collaboration engine.
- We filled the room today and there is clearly an interest to make MD iMap bigger and better.

Michael Shean (Montgomery County Park & Planning Commission)

- We will want to think about larger standards to use as a template as data is migrated into a more universal standard for sharing purposes.
- As barriers are removed, we will need to look at the data at a statewide or even national level. We are currently hearing immediate problems rather than the larger picture.

New Question: Where are we in the state concerning standards? Where are we on the scale of maturity concerning standards?

Michael Shean (Montgomery County Park & Planning Commission)

- Different organizations that have set out standards, we need one that is agree upon by all to follow, there are also data sets which don't have standards, centerlines, cadastral and imagery are spoken about often, but other datasets are not addressed as much (shean)

Michael Scott (Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative/Salisbury University)

- Depends on the datasets being discussed
- For centerlines, we are in a good position at both local and state levels, not perfect, but closer to a 8 or 9 out of 10
- Other types of data have a lot of work to be done to get people thinking about how to develop these resources from the very beginning in a way that meets the needs of the organization, but keeps in mind the interests of others consuming these resources also

Greg Slater (SHA)

- National prospective we are leading the pack, but we still look internally for the need for improvement (slater)

New Question: Where is the book or encyclopedia of the data we have and want to leverage? Is there a catalog of this information? Do we need one? Should we be putting one together?

Kevin Coyne (DNR)

- Processes that are setup need to be set up to make sure that directions can be changed in the future, that these processes are flexible

Elliot Schlanger (DoIT)

- Cannot convene to this group ever time data is needed, so where is the library for this information?
- MD iMap is the library, all the information built and stored by agencies, locals and private sector, would be in a convenient place to draw upon
- There are MOUs and other legal considerations, as well as security and privacy, where is this repository?

New Question: Does it exist and to the extent that it should, should we be building this up under this group?
Barney Krucoff (GIO)

- MD iMap Portal is a central location to post data and standards, data consuming, contributing, developing, links to other relevant sites
- We need to update standards and policies

Michael Shean (Montgomery County Park & Planning Commission)

- Need to agree as a state what the standard is that we are all aiming for because even something slightly different is difficult to bring data together later

Matthew Felton (Datastory Consulting, LLC)

- One place is not realistic, data ought to be accessible and web search gets you to the right resources
- Technologies change and the way that people access data changes and there needs to be nimbleness to make these resources changes as times change

Barney Krucoff (GIO)

- Cannot achieve single standards, Federal government has spent a lot of time and money, but spent too long and missed the market
- Standards are market driven and there are not many problems today to change standards because of the moving market
- Portal is never going to be the one and only resources for all geospatial needs, there are already multiple hubs within the room and there are more at the state, regional and national level
- We need to figure out how to federate all of these resources

Angela Lagdameo (DHR)

- Office of Policy and Planning has done all the GIS work for this agency
- MD iMap is not meant to be the one and only resource, but it is a public resource which allows for convenience sharing with stakeholders
- Answers some of the more critical policy questions by data sharing agreements between agencies and partners
- Useful tool and good for the public; a neat and immediate way to look at data

New Question: Where is there room for improvement and what are some areas we can map out, infuse more data, functionality, more assistance to what you do?

James Somerville (KCI Technologies, Inc.)

- Catalog of services which might or might not be hosted on MD iMap
- Expand upon this search to allow for URLs or points of contact for other resources
- Central go to point and disperse to obtain what is needed

Michael Scott (Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative/Salisbury University)

- Remember where we were, educate the next generation of the work force
- Need to have students doing real-world projects
 - In the past, this would have meant contacting directly to collect data, individual efforts to put this data together
 - Can now point students to these resources and allow them to focus more on the analysis

- Trouble with massive data catalogs is how do you find what you are looking for, even when you do not know what you need, this problem arises for any catalog
- Find new ways to search, keywords, smart searches, is a challenge and will always be a challenge, need to reevaluate if there is a better way to do this

Jim Cannistra (MDP)

- Online maps tab, MD iMap is a one stop shop for online applications from State agencies
- The list is getting long, but there are other applications which have been developed that are not here, need to get them here
- Content tab has data explorer capability which has improved the search for data
- The next level task is populating the key components of the data results
 - Standards in metadata
 - Timeliness of data
 - Accuracy
 - Refresh cycle
 - Owner
 - Reason why it was collected
- This information is often missing and we struggle to get full FGDC-compliant metadata, we are falling short

Greg Slater (SHA)

- Transportation has discussed standards a lot
- Including a core set of data principles instead of standards
- Asset, open and shared, fit for many applications, common vocabulary, not duplicated

Russell Provost (DoIT/Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative)

- State of Florida has data library for federal and state data which is publicly available
- Metadata was implored upon them, includes processes for collecting/obtaining the data to populate the metadata
- Metadata is explicit to help with interpretation of data

Michael Scott (Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative/Salisbury University)

- What we want to push from this committee, think about in context to prepare to share
- This is for those with new data to contribute or updating data already being contributed
- Put forth a set of principles

Barney Krucoff (GIO)

- Biggest improvement over last year, we have people to help
- If there are agencies that want to contribute, comply or need assistance, we have folks assigned to regions and clusters of agencies, they cannot do all the work, but can assist and teach

New Question: What is the value of all of this?

Julia Fischer (DoIT)

- Allows for culmination of data layers which facilitate the development of incentive boundaries at DBED, which are coming from a number of different agencies, instead of having to contact each agency and request updates of the data
- Provides a resource for distributing these incentive zones to other State agencies, as well as, out-of-state clients, as needed

Angela Lagdameo (DHR)

- DLLR unemployment datasets, to map along with clients getting resources from DHR

Brad Wolters (DHCD)

- Parcels used to make sure if properties are included inside of boundaries, linked to SDAT to verify addresses
- Would like to see linking to other resources outside of MD iMap and expanding the resource
- Use parcels to designate areas rather than unconfirmed polygons, better data, perpetuates better data

New Question: Who is the intended customer of the MD iMap Portal? State agencies? Community? (Justin Lahman, AXIS GeoSpatial, LLC)

Barney Krucoff (GIO)

- Data agencies are producing for themselves, we want to make data available to sister agencies, but data produced with public money should be available to the public; public includes private industry, etc.
- Applications are often publicly oriented, requested by a specific issue or convey information on a legislative topic

Bud Gudmundson (Washington County Government)

- Counties like to think of the State as a whole concerning sharing and cooperating
- MD iMap should be the place to get state data, local governments are customers and contributors to MD iMap because data is given to the State
- End all, final resting place for all data that is needed at the local level, might not be true, but would be nice
- Use to trying to get data from individual agencies, but having one central repository makes it easier at local level
- Has come a long way, making progress, happy to see this progress at the state level with local contributions, still progress to be made, but a great effort

Barney Krucoff (GIO)

- We do some things ok, but also recognize gaps
- Data from local governments, includes centerlines to create statewide centerlines layer
- Believe we are under sharing state to local
- Within state government we under share, defined MD iMap too narrowly as the data hosted at CGIS
- Needs to be opened up and point to services that are not at MD iMap, hosted somewhere else, but we need to be the card catalog for this data

Michael Scott (Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative/Salisbury University)

- ESRGC hosts regional meetings for local GIS folks
- They are not using MD iMap, they do not see why they need it since they have access to it locally
- They need features, not map services
- They still rely on calling and contacting agencies individually to get feature data
- Going through a technical culture change, using data as a service, rather than just on the hard drive, locally, culture change has not trickled down to many end users

- We need to be clear on benefits to end-users who have been doing GIS for years of not having individual, local copies on individual, local machines

Elliot Schlanger (DoIT)

- Cloud delivery model is efficient, one entity that can serve many in a cost efficient way
- Anyone who can derive benefits from these resources, state funds from tax payers, so it belongs to all

Justin Lahman (AXIS GeoSpatial, LLC)

- MD iMap homepage does not have a map right in front of you
- More complicated process to get to the data
- Recommend an interactive map to go into directly on the website itself
- General customer of State agencies could be trained, but public and other folks this is where to get GIS data you need and do not have an interactive way to get this information
- Google has ability to pull up these layers directly
- Feel like on the outside looking in, want to be a more regular user, the map focus needs to be more in focus

Jim Cannistra (MDP)

- 40+ apps available online to access the core data and resources
- There is not a single application that has the whole list of layers organized by themes, casual user application
- Conscious decision to make applications focused on business practices or topics
- Most GIS users can pull the resources into their available software
- Do not see one map as feasible; see few local governments, despite outreach at GIS meetings, using services or applications directly
- Have larger scale, higher accuracy data at the local level, so do not need these resources
- Getting benefits when they need to look outside of their immediate area, not a direct use, but counties are going to get indirect benefit

Elliot Schlanger (DoIT)

- What is the vision for impact to the Local governments, specifically public safety? Are we trying to put the local organizations out of business or is this meant to be supplemental and supportive?
- We do not want redundancy, proper division of responsibility to be synergistic and not competitive
- This group needs to figure out some way to do this

Bud Gudmundson (Washington County Government)

- Local jurisdictions are not necessarily using MD iMap day in and day out, but knowing data is being compiled from locals to the statewide level is beneficial

New Question: How do we get the locals to get more engaged?

Michael Shean (Montgomery County Park & Planning Commission)

- Cross border analysis proves challenging to determine who has this information and get MOUs in place, but the data layers do not blend well when there are different standards amongst the locals
- MD iMap standards can structure the data in same fashion and would allow for ease of bringing the data together in the future

- Do not need to do every layer, but focus on the key layers

Russell Provost (DoIT/ Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative)

- Addressing project is becoming a platform to determine the process of each individual address layer, process cycle and standards
- The hope is that this project will prove to be a model for other, future data sets
- Agree with putting an interactive map on the front page of the Portal
 - Was initially looking for a map where data can be downloaded
 - Single data application to zoom into a layer, find categories, click and download would be ideal
 - Indiana map is a good model

New Question: One facet of MD iMap that you would like to see improved or added; if MD iMap could do one thing for me, it would be?

- Make the Portal updateable by contributors and multiple people inside and outside of hosting agency
- Categories of data types – show all associated data, applications and all resources associated with keywords
- Easy place, intuitive to access and find things, sophisticated back-end to make this happen, inventory what we are doing now and enhance to put the federated organization together, break down the steps to make it happen
- Up-to-date data supporting the services
- Real-time data available (bus locations, train locations, wait for emission inspections)
- Download data, need the data for analysis and not just the service for visualization
- Take advantage of open Geospatial and open standards for services, feature services, not dependent on any one vendor
- Standardized address database for download and standards for development
- Accommodate more map services, issue with servers at capacity
- Reiterate user functions to communicate what is on the Portal
- Criminal justice data and statistics – access agencies and professionals use MD iMap to put data into prospective, not a public function
- More streamlined, browse able
- Secure place for confidential data, reassurance that only specific agency are accessing data
- Device compatibility
- Downloadable data to integrate with local jurisdiction's data
- Current, up-to-date information and security
- Easier way to find applications and data, traditional state page, put data and applications upfront, thematic approach, data and applications are tagged appropriately, can present thematically with questions, what questions do you want to answer, biggest topic of the day is at the top, which can be manually changed or Twitter could feed this top topic, results: application first, data services second
- A what do you want to know approach
- Done for GIS people to GIS people, need to clarify the terms used for those who are not familiar with GIS terms, for example “Services” should be changed to “Data”
- Resource for GIS professionals or is it a place for public or other members to go to and get individual MD iMap sites, mapped based, show performance and transparency, GIS-based site the terminology can remain as-is, public site would be very different construction and delivery, one site cannot be everything to everyone, perhaps 2 sites are needed

- More focus on the end-user, providing a way for end-users to contribute and comment what they would like to see, on anything existing or potential future improvements, virtual focus group
- Does not stand up without the data that feeds MD iMap, needs a stronger wealth of data, have things to choose from, stronger commitments to sharing data and keeping it up-to-date and accurate
- Being able to interact with the data when conducting presentations away from the main system, GIS query for fiscal notes
- Problem with one size fits all website
- Tracking with hits of unsuccessful hits concerning what people are coming to MD iMap for and are not finding
- Easier, streamline for updating the website, moving in that direction
- Address tool to put in and get census tract, legislative district, geospatial analysis with tabular results, draws people to website initially
- Data has to be good data and maintained properly and accurately, data matches across Portals
- Better access to the raw data, access data that is driving applications and maps, and obtain feedback directly
- Access to data
- Page organized to go to current situations (for example: dFIRM, CHART) or go to longer term access for professional needs
- Existing page is too complex for the general public, Google maps is a clean interface and users are accustomed to functionality
- General web map of Maryland, where are cities and getting a sense of location within the State
- Audience driven, tax payers paying for this resource, should be useful for them
- Accommodate users who are not using the most recent software versions, especially small shops in remote areas
- Queries on-demand, static data could be repurposed for other group's needs, security, stats of web pages usage, analytics
- Data assist policy makers, identify problems on the map and how resources are deployed to address the problems, align state resources can be effective and make better decisions about resource deployment
- Interactive map to drill down and get the information about retrieving or downloading data of interest
- One map of Maryland
- State data and pointing to locations of where local, contributed data is found, register in a central location
- Applications for the public and data more for the professionals
- Dynamic data, live
- Stop trying to recreate the base, cartographic data which is being maintained and created by many other sources, with more funding and resources (for example: Google, Bing)
- Contact information of our peers, if we do need to make direct connections
- "myMDiMap" – custom maps and features which each person is interested in returning to regularly, personalized homepage, remembers what a computer searched on previous visits

Barney Krucoff (GIO)

- Stop competing with mass market website such as Bing and Google
- Strive for ease of use, but not necessarily mass market
- "Add MD iMap Data" button allowing to mix and match with applications and data already being engaged

Expectations of a group like this to move forward a common cause?

Question #2: Is your agency/organization taking advantage of geospatial technology generally and MD iMap resources in particular? If so, how?

Question #3: If you are a State agency, what is the most important data you get/want from local governments? If you are a local government, what is the most important you get/want from State agencies?

Question #4: What is the most important thing the MD iMap program can do to help your agency use geospatial technology efficiently?

Demonstration of New MD iMap Application Template (Presentation Available on MD iMap Portal)

- New template is available via the mdimap/gio Github account
- New template has also been registered with ArcGIS Online and can be implemented directly within ArcGIS Online for those who have an ArcGIS Online for Maryland account
- Existing applications can be migrated using one template that will be accessible from desktop and all mobile devices
- Publicly acknowledge and reward agencies which contribute to this collaboration effort on the Github site in the future
- Current development contract ends on March 22, 2013

Technical Committee Update – *Julia Fischer* (Presentation Available on MD iMap Portal)

ESRI ELA Strategy and Usage Statistics

- Halfway through the initial base contract, with 2 additional option years
- In September 2014 and 2015 will need to decide to:
 - Exercise the existing option
 - Renegotiate ELA
 - Combine an a la carte purchase with open source options
 - Return to the previous structure of purchasing/licensing
- September 2016 last option ends and a decision must be made concerning how to proceed with future of GIS software licensing
- Three main components make up the costs to be considered:
 - ArcGIS Desktop software and extensions
 - ArcGIS Online
 - ArcGIS Server
- Currently have 413 unique users of the central license manager which is only a fraction of users from the ELA eligible State agencies
- Unique users are from 12 agencies
- Need to work amongst ourselves to get more users connected to the central license manager
- Also need to educate all users and installers of the desktop software to assign the computer with the lowest level of Desktop that meets all needs of the user
 - In most cases, users should be setup to pull an ArcView license from the central license manager
 - Documentation will be provided via the Portal with details on what is available at each level of licensing, to assist with picking the appropriate level

ArcGIS Online for Maryland

- ArcGIS Online for Maryland accounts are also available to ELA eligible State agency employees
 - Esri has changed their user agreements and now emphasize that work-related business should only be conducted through an ArcGIS Online for Organizations account
 - Existing individual account users can receive an email which allows them to transfer the information from these individual accounts into the organization
 - Contact GIO Office or DoIT Help Desk for details

MD iMap Portal Updates

- Actively adding links to new applications to the Portal, contact GIO Office to have your application linked
- Still in the process of migrating the Portal from its current infrastructure to the DoIT infrastructure and into SharePoint
 - Anticipate transfer to occur in the upcoming months

MD iMap Technical Committee Administrative Updates

- GIO Office representatives have been added to the three subcommittees
- Security Subcommittee has been combined with the Application Subcommittee
- Technical Committee meetings have been changed from bi-weekly to monthly
- Next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2013 from 1 – 3p.m. @ MDE

Statewide Addressing Project – *Barney Krucoff & Russell Provost*

- Addressing Coordinator hired through an existing Broadband grant and based out of the GIO Office at DoIT
- Aspiring to create one standardized master address point repository for Maryland
 - Input data will come from the local jurisdictions
 - Anticipate automating the process of receiving updates from the locals at established intervals
- Results of this effort will be used to populate a component of the cascading geocoder which will be available via MD iMap
- Coordination between many different organizations which operate statewide, regionally and locally will be crucial for the success of this project

Phases of the Project

- Initial phase will consist of outreach, including a data request letter and meetings with the local jurisdictions
- Phase 2 will consist of data collection beginning with the Eastern Shore counties and progressing west
- Phase 3 will consist of data analysis and verification of the data being received
 - Reports will be provided back to the contributing jurisdictions summarizing the verification process
- Phase 4 will consist of data standardization, merging the datasets and publishing to MD iMap
- Phase 5 will consist of identifying address improvement plan (Anticipated in Early 2014)
- Phase 6 will consist of finalizing the addressing services and confirming the updating process

MD iMap Composite Geocoder

- A single geocoding service with 11 components, including parcel points, centerlines, mile markers, etc.
- To be made available for single address look-up via the Portal and available as a service for batch geocoding in ArcGIS Desktop and web applications

Statewide Situational Awareness – *Barney Krucoff*

- New workgroup with a goal to coordinate development of situational awareness tools and data
- Already assembling a number of data sources which are fed real-time into OSPREY
- Added many new data layers into OSPREY for response during Hurricane Sandy
- Members of the group are coming from local, state and regional organizations
- Anticipate establishment of a Hub system which allows for communication and bringing together resources from multiple sources which are being maintained by multiple organizations
- Maryland's security policy will need to be taken into consideration as this initiative moves forward
- Future meetings anticipate don 3rd Wednesdays of each month at MCAC

Status Updates: MD iMap Major Projects

Data Migration – Lisa Lowe

- Current issues include:
 - Multiple agencies submitting the same data to accommodate the need for different symbology
 - Inaccuracies in the data submitted, particularly from someone other than the data owner
 - Nearing 300 map services has caused server performance issues
- Next Steps:
 - Data is being reviewed for accuracy and duplication
 - Existing services are being reviewed for removal or consolidation
 - Migrating the services from version 10.0 to version 10.1

System Migration Upgrade – Jason Keppler

- In Place:
 - Development and Staging database and web servers
 - Utilizing PostgreSQL database (open source)
 - Running ArcGIS Server 10.1 SP1
 - Established SwGI connection to existing system at CGIS
- In Progress:
 - Production environment to be established
 - Determining where and how best to established this environment
 - Will run ArcGIS Server 10.1
 - Will provide access to secure services via SwGI

Socrata/MD iMap Integration – Jason Keppler

- Two separate resources for uploading data
 - MD iMap – spatially enabled data
 - Socrata – spatially and non-spatially enabled data
- Working on automated process to make non-spatial data from Socrata spatial and automating updates
- Facilitate sharing of data between the two systems through automated processes
- Currently using MDTA Accidents data as an example of how data can exist in both systems without having to manually add the data into both systems

General Discussion – *Barney Krucoff*

News Items

- New Hires:
 - Russell Provost – State coverage: CADRMS, Planning, Local & Regional coverage: Addressing Authorities

- Matthew Sokol – State coverage: Law Enforcement, Local & Regional coverage: Eastern or TBD
- Vacant position – interviewing candidates in the next few weeks

- TUGIS Conference 2013
 - Scheduled for March 19 at Towson University

- Eastern Shore Imagery
 - 911 Emergency Numbers Board funded
 - AXIS GeoSpatial awarded the contract to collect the imagery
 - Being managed by MDP
 - Flying now

Next Meeting: Mid 2013